



The Waccamaw Village News

Waccamaw Indian People

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Winter Solstice

The "Winter Solstice "ceremony will be held on Dec. 18th at the tribal grounds. There will be three ceremonies Sunrise, Noon and Sunset. This is open to everyone. Come and stay all day or just for a ceremony. Bring crafts or items you have made to work on if you like. We can bring covered dishes and spend the day together. We are trying to coordinate the food ,so if you plan to bring something call Susan or Sandy (397-1333)and let them know your plans. It will be chilly I'm sure so dress warmly for the ceremonies, and we can eat inside. Bring your guitar and we can listen to all of you play.

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The following is an article that was in The State newspaper after the 1st Native American Conference.

Posted on Sat, Nov. 19, 2005

S.C. tribes, groups honored at event

Five communities officially recognized at Native American conference

By CAROLYN CLICK

Staff Writer

The honor song began as a single stirring drum beat. Then one Native American voice joined another, as representatives of five newly recognized South Carolina tribes and groups were gathered Friday into the folds of an Honor Circle, a ceremony recognizing the sacred and enduring traditions of the state's tribal communities.

For Harold Hatcher, chief of the Waccamaws, the ceremony was long overdue and, momentarily, overwhelming. Tears streamed down his face as he accepted the framed state resolution from Janie Davis, executive director of the S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs.

Hatcher has worked since 1992 for tribal recognition, but his private battle for acknowledgment really began as a youngster when he said he was "called every name you can imagine." He fought in Vietnam, earning a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, only to return to Horry County and be told to move when he sat down to dine at a restaurant.

His frustration at his people's treatment and invisible status culminated with the death of his father in the early 1980s.

The next tribal meeting will be Dec. 2nd, at 6:30pm at the tribal office in Aynor, SC.



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“On his death certificate, he was listed as mulatto,” said Hatcher, referring to a description of mixed race lineage that has long since been discarded.

“I said things have got to change and they have changed.”

Hatcher’s tribe, the Waccamaw Indian People of Conway, and the Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina were formally recognized as tribes by the Legislature in February.

The three recognized groups include the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, in Berkeley County; the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of S.C., scattered in six counties; and the Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People of S.C., in Williamsburg County.

The Catawba Indian Nation in the Upstate is already recognized by the federal government. There are 17 other tribes and groups in South Carolina that have yet to receive state recognition.

To gain state recognition, a tribe must have at least a centurylong presence in South Carolina and use a Native American form of government, among other things, said Barbara MorningStar Paul, conference organizer and program coordinator for the minority affairs commission.

As she stood among those attired in carefully selected Native American regalia, Paul described the daylong conference and the honor circle ceremony as a “resurgence of pure joy” for the state’s indigenous people.

The event, the state’s first conference devoted to Native Americans, included sessions on issues from health care to community development and cultural and spiritual survival, as well as inspirational speakers and musicians.

Bill Miller, a Grammy award-winning musician, writer and activist, delivered an emotional address detailing his upbringing on a Wisconsin reservation and urged participants to overcome the divisions among the races.

Friday seemed a start to Mingo Uly Joe Tanner, assistant chief of the Chaloklowa Chickasaw group. He suggested things had come a long way since his childhood, when his parents never spoke of their Native American heritage.

“Our elders were taught don’t let the census taker know you are Indian,” he recalled. “You just put ‘white’ on the form.”



RICH GLICKSTEIN/THE STATE
Harold Hatcher, chief of the Waccamaw Indian People of Conway, sheds a tear as Janie Davis of the S.C. Commission of Minority Affairs reads the first resolution recognizing his Native American tribe on Friday.



Culture Class

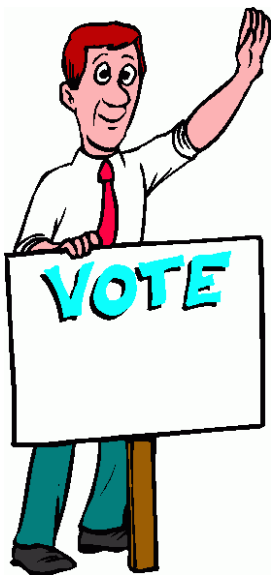
Come one, come all to our class. We will be meeting at the tribal office on Sat., December, 3rd starting at 10:00am. Instructors will be our very own Stefanie Lynch and her husband, Reggie. They will be explaining the different types of regalia and how you would go about making regalia for yourself. For more information on what you may need to bring, call Stef or Reggie at 252-586-4282.

Tribal Elections

Elections are only 11 months away. The following seats are open for election: Chief's position and three council seats. If there are things you would like to see changed or want to have a say in what happens in the tribe, here is your opportunity to run for these positions.

Requirements for running: member in good standing and over 18 years of age. Spousal or honorary members are not eligible to run.

If you plan to run for any of these seats, I will need your Letter of Intent no later than Feb. 15, 2006 so I can run it in the newsletter. I will run them in the March, June and September edition. Don't forget, there won't be another newsletter until March, 2006.



Birthday Wishes

Hope everybody has a very Happy Birthday!!!!



Council Corner

Nothing from council this month.



I'd like to again thank the Princess Committee; Stef, Winnie, Jo and Reggie for having the confidence in me to select me as the 1st Senior Ms. Waccamaw. I will do my best to do the tribe proud. Over the next year I'd like to bridge the gap between the school districts and other organizations to learn more about the Waccamaw Indians of Conway, SC.

Picture courtesy of Kathy Chavis, Beaver Creek Indians



Letter from the Chief

My Brothers and Sisters:

This has been a great year for the Waccamaw People. I don't know what any future year holds but it will be hard to meet or even match this year. A few of us worked very hard every weekend for the last six months to get the tribal grounds ready for our Pauwau, and we did it. The grass was growing, the sun was shining, the people came and we had so many people on site Saturday that we almost ran out of room to park the cars. Folks, we just finished the best Pauwau we ever had.

Of great importance to me during the Pauwau, was the fact that the Elders and Council took part in the fire ceremonies. We have one of the last two traditional fire keepers in existence, and we are the guardians of that tradition. I am intent that it will not die on my watch! I have asked the Council to schedule their family gatherings around the solstice ceremonies. Please plan to attend and take part. You cannot insult the fire and no one will be grading how you turn, look or dress. Take part as your ancients did, and learn. If you are drawn to the spiritual things and want to learn the ceremonies and work with the fire keeper, let him know you are interested.

Every time I asked there were a few people who came, to do things I thought were important. I felt guilty sometimes, because it seemed to me that the same people were doing every project. They came and worked and never complained. They even funded the operation themselves, in many cases.

There are people who live a distance from the site and people who cannot do the actual work, but who send money every month to help do whatever needs doing. Some of these people are not even tribal members. Some of them have donated upwards of \$800 since May of 2004 and others had donated \$20 but, the size of the donation is not important. The spirit of the person is! It is that spirit in these people that makes me want to succeed and push the tribe into the lime light it has been so long denied.

It seems to me that such dedicated and caring people deserve something special. There has to be some way to set them aside from those who sit, read, complain, make excuses, and never lift a hand. When the tribe reaches its true potential, some folks should have a spot in the sun, and some should not! I hope Council will set in motion a plan to do exactly that. I have some ideas on how to recognize true hearts.

The tribal business, Waccamaw Care, is doing well. We have not yet reached the point where we can make monetary donations but we are building. Susan Hayes is doing a great job in managing the business and it is growing. At present, Waccamaw Care pays the water, lights, and other expenses necessary for running the tribal office. This is our office, our building, on our land and we are managing it on our own.

We have an arts and crafts program which will allow us to meet the provisions outlined in Public Law 101-644. Thanks to the dedicated work of a few, the plan is in place and all that remains for the members is for Tribal Council to finalize the standards and procedures. I suspect that they will be working on those things pretty steadily over the next few months.

I attended the state conference and what a great success it was. There was a beautiful display of Waccamaw artifacts on a table unmatched by any other displays there. One of our best artists hand crafted the artifacts and made us proud. Thank you, Joy for a job well done. The tribe, along with other recognized tribes and groups, was honored by receiving the proclamation issued by the state, in an honor circle. I was fortunate to be in the right place,



in the right job, and in the right tribe at the right time in the state's history. If you missed it you missed a moment in South Carolina's history that cannot be repeated.

I have become very popular on the speakers circuit. I have made a bunch of speeches across South and North Carolina over the past few weeks. It seems that many believe that Native leaders make good speakers and I have been single handedly destroying that stereotype.

The state of the tribe is "good". The state of the Chief is "tired". I wish you all the best season ever and hopefully things will improve for the tribe in the future. I have about 11 months left on my term and I intend to retire. I encourage anyone who has the desire and who cares about their tribe, to think about running for the position.

I have done my share and it is time for new blood. I don't intend to evaporate or disappear. I want to work on the federal process and finish up on some of the state issues. I hope Council will give me the authority to continue on those programs. If not, I will simply show up, attend meetings voice, my opinion, and try to be a part of the tribe of my ancestors, the tribe I love!

In the words of President Lyndon Johnson, "I will not seek nor will I accept another term "as the primary leader of the Waccamaw. My second Chiefs are free to announce their intent to seek seats on the council, elders, or even the tribal Chief's position. In fairness and in view of my future mission, I have decided that in the upcoming elections, I will not show support nor opposition to any candidate for any office and I reserve the right to seek office again if I decide it is something I want to do in the future.

I appreciate the support I have received and I wish all of you well. Happy holidays to all of you and Walk Easy

HDH
Chief



Picture courtesy of Kathy Chavis, Beaver Creek Indians



This will be the last newsletter for the year. I'd like to say "thank you" to all those who helped with the newsletter this past year. We have seen great things happen over this past year and I'm sure we will see new and exciting things in the coming year.

From our house to yours



and



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